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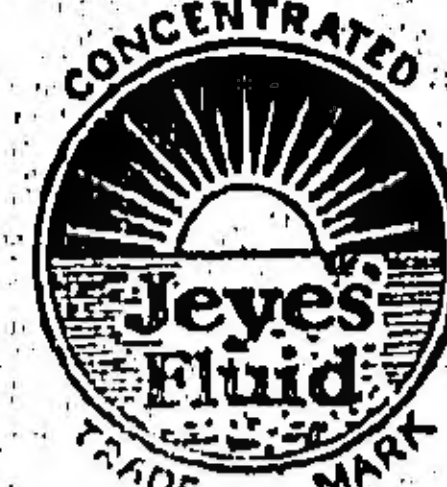
Temperature 59 Barometer 30.20
Rainfall 0.09 in. Humidity 92

The China Mail

ESTABLISHED 1845

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To-day's opening rate 2/4 1/16

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HONGKONG, SATURDAY JANUARY 26, 1914

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HONGKONG

"IMMORTAL MEMORY."

BURNS NIGHT IN HONGKONG.

THE POET AND THE MAN.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOV. ERNOR'S SPEECH.

Just how many factors, from barley bree to witty toast, contribute to the success of a Burns Night dinner, it was hard to say; but one thing can be said with utmost truth—they were all present last night, when Hongkong Scots, with a few Sassenach guests including H.E. the Governor, celebrated the Immortal Memory with traditional verve and cheer. Over 114 sat down to dinner and the gathering must rank as one of the very best the Hongkong St. Andrew's Society has yet organized. Which is high praise indeed.

Mr. R. Sutherland, the Chieftain, presided, supported by His Excellency the Governor, Admiral Sir Arthur Leveson, K.C.B., His Excellency General Sir John Fowler, K.C.M.G., the Hon. Mr. A. G. Stephen, Sir William Rees Davies, Sir Claude Severn, Mr. J. Reid, Hon. Mr. P. H. Holyoak, Hon. Mr. A. O. Lang, Mr. D. G. M. Bernard, Mr. A. G. M. Fletcher, Mr. J. W. C. Bonnar, Mr. G. M. Young, Mr. R. M. Dyer, Mr. W. Nicholson, Mr. J. Kirk Macdonachie, Mr. G. Hogg, Dr. C. Forsyth, Mr. J. B. Ross and Mr. J. Sutherland (President of the Yokohama and Tokyo St. Andrew's Society). Amongst other prominent people were the Rev. G. R. Lindsay, Mr. B. Wylie, Mr. D. K. Blair, Mr. D. Harvey, Prof. J. Anderson, Mr. Allan Cameron, Mr. A. S. D. Cousland, Mr. G. MacArthur, Mr. A. H. Ferguson, Mr. McMurray, Mr. A. Stevenson, Mr. McBean Ross, Mr. W. Russell and Mr. A. L. Shields. Over the fireplace behind the official table was a portrait of Burns draped in the Scottish national flag under which was a model of Burns cottage at Alloway, made from an old print in the possession of Mr. D. K. Blair.

The Rev. J. Kirk Macdonachie having offered the blessing, the following excellent dinner was served.

Bill o' Fare.

Hale breeks, a scone an' whisky gill.

A Tasty Bite

Just a something to gar ye eat.
Coo's Rump Kail
Watch an' no jamp yerse!

Fish

An' a Dram.
Stoved Hen an' Ham
"As soon's the clockin' time is by."

Haggis

Wi' a' the Honour,
"An' muckle din there was about it,
Baith loon an' lang."

Rosati Mutton

Wi' tauties, biled and champit;
Bashed neeps and tither orra greens.

An' snither mouthfu'

Biled Puddin'
Sic a ground nigh we're haein'.
Dessert an' Sic Like
An' kebbucks, green an' mitney.

Barley Bree

Frac well kent Scottish Vineyards.
There's naething like the honest nappie.
Whaur'll ye e'er see men sae happy.
As them-wha' like to taste the drappie.

In glass or horn?
Lethal-starv'd slaves in warmer skies
See future wines rich-clust'ring rise;
Their lot auld Scotland ne'er envies.

But, blythe an' frisky,
She eyes her free-born martial boys.

Tak aff their whisky.
After the loyal toast had been honoured, the Chieftain, asking His Excellency to propose "The Immortal Memory," said Sir Edward had paid the gathering perhaps the greatest compliment one in his high position could confer upon the Scottish community that is, in proposing the toast of the evening. By so doing, His Excellency showed his deep appreciation of a poet of remarkable personality, and whose works undoubtedly occupied one of the highest in the world's literature. And so to-night, Gentlemen, we are afforded the unique opportunity of hearing what I know will be the well-considered view of one who does not hail from "Old Scotland," and in consequence is able to speak without bias, not having been brought up from childhood as we Scots are, in an atmosphere

of devotion, or even reverence for our beloved "Rabbie Burns."

It was quite possible he may not have confined his liking in either case to a single glass or a single lass, but after all that was very largely his business (Laughter), and one could not help thinking in reading some of these criticisms that the real trouble was that Burns started from the lower social rank. It seemed rather ridiculous to attach undue importance to certain lapses of sobriety and morality at a time when the upper classes of society were corrupt in both respects.

The Modern Touch.
I wonder whether it ever occurred to you the great loss to poetry it was that Burns did not go to Jamaica as he nearly did. Cannot you imagine the wonderful poems a man would write who had such great appreciation of the beauties of nature, of the sunny skies, the tropical dawn, the animal life of forests, and then on his return, the comparison he would produce between Jamaica and Scotland. I cannot quite envisage how it would run, but the lines which occur to me quite clearly are these:

Yes, summer skies, I maun confess
Out there; the balance to redress.
We've bonnier lassies to caress
Than your Sultanas.
We ha'e guid whiskey too, But
Yes,
We've no Bananas.
(Loud Laughter and Cheers)

Burns' Sincerity.
The first point which struck him on reading Burns' poems was what Carlyle called the sincerity of them but what he (the speaker) was inclined to call the simplicity or truthfulness of them—their absolute fidelity to nature. Burns had got the spirit of the country, the side and the spirit of nature. He was not so much giving expression to nature as allowing nature to express itself through him. (Hear, hear.) Any mood in which they might happen to be they would find Burns expressing the voice of nature connected with that mood. He found also in the poems of Burns almost every one of the qualities which have made Scotland and England what they are. (Applause.) He confessed that the independence which breathed through the poems appealed to him tremendously—not only the independence which prevented Burns regarding anybody as superior merely because of superiority in rank but the general independence which made him satisfied, which made him convinced that he was right and that he should do what he considered right.

Another point which always struck him in Burns was the absence of bitterness, the absence of ill-feeling, which he showed in his poems. Of course, he hit hard, and if he disliked a person he generally said so, but one felt there was no real malice behind it and that the bard would be quite prepared to shake hands afterwards. That struck him as a remarkable tribute to the greatness of the man.

The refreshing thing in these days of internationalism was the patriotism of the man. He was not a big man to be a narrow patriot and he was expressing his true feelings when he said:

"That man to man the world o'er
Shall brothers be for a' that."
(Applause.)

His Excellency thought there was no one present who would object to that sentiment.

"In the words of the bard," he added,
"Whiskey and freedom gang t'gether
Tak' aff your dram,
to the Immortal Memory of Robert Burns."
(Cheers.)

The Lassies.
Proposing "The Lassies," Mr. B. Wylie said:
"Auld Nature.....
Her 'prentice han' she tried on men.
An' then she made the lasses, O'—
They would observe from that passage, said Mr. Wylie, that our Ploughman Bard not only followed the Biblical order of creation but tacitly agreed to the superiority of the other sex. "Made last by the hands of a Master Craftsman, the lovely dears were ever to him a source of inspiration. Through his contact with them we are left with a wealth of glorious song and the spirit of the purest poetry."
(Continued on page 4.)

Lingering Coughs.
Bronchitis leaves a bad cough. So does influenza and is gripped, but these hard-lunged coughs yield easily to the healing and curative qualities of Chamberlain's Cough Remedy. Good for trouble some night coughs too. For sale every where.

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AUCTIONEERS, APPRAISERS
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Public Auctions.

THE undersigned have received instructions to sell by Public Auction, on

MONDAY, January 28th, 1924,
commencing at 10.30 a.m. & 2.00 p.m.
at Godown No. 23 The Hongkong
Kowloon Wharf & Godown Co., Ltd.,
Kowloon.A Quantity of
Miscellaneous Goods
Comprising:-Round, Flat and Square Bars, Angle
Iron, Joists, Bar Ends, Galvanized Wire,
Flour, Planks, Old Newspapers, Ship-
bale of Ammonia, Cess, etc., etc.,
also50 Cases Chinese Wine
51 Cases Stout
24 Cases Provisions
22 Packages Sewing Machines
48 Cases Biscuits
5 Bales Cotton Canvas
48 Bales Coagulum
10 Cases Shoe Wire
10 Cases Shoe Nails.

Terms:- Cash on delivery.

LAMBERT BROS.,
Auctioneers.

Hongkong, January 18, 1924.

TUESDAY, January 29th, 1924,
at 11 o'clock a.m.at the Premises of the Hongkong and
Kowloon Wharf & Godown Co., Ltd.,
Kennedy Town

(for account of the concerned)

One Gas Engine

Terms:- Cash on delivery.

LAMBERT BROS.,
Auctioneers.

Hongkong, January 24, 1924.

ON

WEDNESDAY, January 30, 1924,
commencing at 11 a.m.at their Sales Rooms, Duddell Street,
15 Enamelled Baths
11 Gross "Wellington" Liquid
Metal Polish2,000 lbs. Round Head Steel Rivets
Also

A Quantity of Sundry Goods

Terms:- Cash on delivery.

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VEHICLES.The fares prescribed for public vehicles
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Road and Lower Levels, and in
Kowloon, and New Kowloon.

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Five minutes..... 5 cents
Ten minutes..... 10 cents
Quarter hour..... 15 cents
Half hour..... 20 cents
One hour..... 25 cents
Every subsequent hour..... 30 centsIf the fare is to be engaged
within the City of Victoria, and be dis-
charged outside the Western part of the
City of Victoria after 8 p.m., or be dis-
charged to the East of Foy View Police
Station on the Eastern side of the City
of Victoria after 9 p.m., an extra half
fare shall be charged.For 2 or 3 drivers the fare is double or
treble respectively.II.-In the Hill District.
Ten minutes..... 15 cents
Quarter hour..... 20 cents
Half hour..... 25 cents
One hour..... 30 cents
Every subsequent hour..... 35 centsIII.-In the New Territories.
By arrangement with the proprietors
through the Police.

CHURCH NOTICES.

A CHANGE OF ONE DOLLAR
IS MADE FOR ALL NOTICES
UNDER THIS HEADING.

ST. JOHN'S CATHEDRAL.

Hongkong, 27th January 1924.
3rd Sunday after Epiphany.
Holy Communion (8 a.m.)
Matins (11 a.m.)Responses, Psalms, Venite, Nuncius (8th
Evening); Psalms, 42, 43; Te Deum.
Woodward, Smart, Turle, Benedic-
tus, Barnby (16th Morning). Hymns,
175, 179 (tune 398).Healing Service (12 noon).
Evening (6 p.m.)Responses, Psalms, 33, 34 (Chants
5, 6); Magnificat, Wesley (12th Even-
ing); Nuncius, Dimittis, Gilbert (18th
Morning). Hymns, 172, 183, 30.First Church of Christ, Scientist,
MacDonnell Road, Below Bowen
Road, Tram Station.
Sunday, 11.15 a.m.
Wednesday, 5.45 p.m.Moving - pictures - camera
has a capacity of 400 feet
of standard film—

H. K. 550.00 Complete

and even if your know-
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will take scenes as good
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MAINLY BOISSONS LOOT.

Costly Flowers.

No wonder that even the Duchess
of Portland laments that she can't
afford many carnations. Eleven-
pence was the price asked for
a very ordinary small one, re-
ports an *Evening Standard*
writer. This is the costliest time
of year for flowers, and the shop
assistants announce brightly that
they will grow steadily dearer until
after Christmas. Small bunches
of indifferent violets are a shilling
and more, and ten marigolds (our
fathers would as soon have ex-
pected to see a common marigold
in a flower-shop as to see a rolling-
pin in the drawing-room), when
planted in a pot, are alleged to be
worth nearly a guinea.

Coffee and Wireless.

In a village some distance from
London (writes a correspondent to
the *Daily Chronicle*), I found, as I
expected, the "wireless" was in
full swing—or should one say
"full wave"? But I found, too,
that evening wireless parties, at
which such light refreshments as
coffee and sandwiches were served,
were all the rage. The novel
feature, to me, was that all invita-
tions bore the implied phrase,
"Bring your own headphones." The
headphone is, the expensive
part of the set. To provide for a
number of people other than the
home circle is not to be thought of
in some houses. But if the visitors
bring their own headphones they
can switch in and enjoy the music
or speeches while they sip their
coffee. Perhaps soon none of us
will go visiting without our head-
phones.

Paper from Banana Refuse.

A good paper can be made from
banana refuse, according to the
World's Paper Trade Review. The
trash or refuse, consisting of the
stems and leaves of banana
trees from which the fruit has
been cut, is passed through
crushing rolls, which produces a
mash in which the moisture has
been reduced from 90 to 55-75 per
cent. The liquid is drained off
and the trash is passed through a
breaking or pulping machine,
where it is reduced to pulp. The
pulp and juice from the machine
are then placed in a boiler, water
is added, and the mixture is boiled
at a pressure of four to five
atmospheres for a period of three
to six hours. The contents of the
boiler are then transferred to a
beater, where the resinous and
gummy matters, which have been
set free during the process of
boiling, are washed away as
powder or pellets by a current of
water. The removal of the fibrous
material from the beater complete
the process, in which no chemical
is used.—*Weekly Telegraph*.

Glassworker's Armour.

Visitors to a Chicago optical
factory, unprepared for what they
might see as they entered the
main works, would be truly
astonished to find themselves in the
company of hundreds of ghost-
like figures, just about as gruesome
in appearance as could be imagin-
ed. Clothed from head to waist in
a padded costume of cream cotton
wool, the face entirely enclosed in
a white cork mask, except for the
eyes, which peeped unseen
through tinted tale goggles, the
women wearing white skirts and
the men overalls of a similar hue,
busy gangs of operatives pursue
their task. Their strange costumes
are designed to protect them
against the attack of millions of
glass particles so fine as not to be
seen by the naked eye. Anyone
casually walking through the long
rows of benches would perceive
no need for any such protection
that is until told that if these men
and women were to sit at their jobs
ordinarily attired they would lose
their sight in a week, and their
skin would be permanently effec-
ted with a rash impossible to cure.
In this particular factory a process
is employed in the manufacture of
lenses in which segments of
pebble and glass are treated as
they are whirled around in lathes.
Whilst this is going on, the at-
mosphere is charged with atoms
of glass which travel at a terrific
speed from their points of origin
and with such velocity that they
embed themselves right under the
skin of a worker and where near-
that is if no protective device is
employed. A few hours afterwards
extreme irritation is experienced,
and this proves to be the forerun-
ner of considerable evils. Bearing
this alternative in mind, the people
employed willingly make up for
"ghosts" however gruesome their
appearance necessarily becomes.

NATURE NEVER COMPLAINS

Without reason. Bilious attacks, sick
headaches, flatulences, coated tongue, in-
creasing breath and a general way of
feeling that your liver is out of
order of the intestinal tract is cured.
To set the liver right and to dispel
constipation and its distressing effects
Pilexes are perfection. Try them to-
night, you'll be better in the morning.
Obtain a box of Pilexes also post free
on cents the vial from Dr. Williams'
Medicine Co., 60 Manago Shanghai.

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SHEWAN TOMES & Co.,

General Managers.

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MAKING YOUR CHOICE FROM OUR NEW RANGE
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Telegraphic Address:—WAGONLITS, PEKING.

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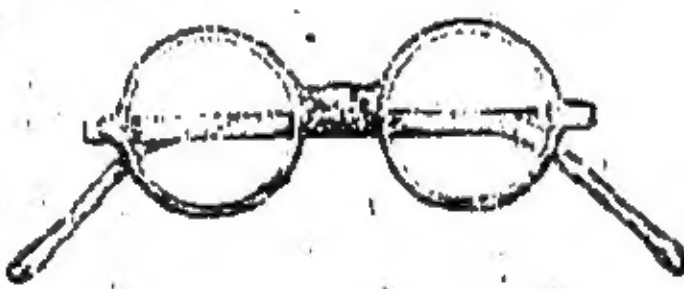
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DEATH.

WILDE.—On 22nd January, in
 England, Capt. Spencer Wilde,
 (late of the Indo-China Steam
 Navigation Co., Ltd.), aged 61
 years.

The China Mail.

HONGKONG SATURDAY, JAN. 26, 1934.

BENEFITS.

Assuming the Labour Govern-
 ment at Home a reasonable spell
 of existence, is Hongkong
 likely to gain anything from an
 oversight of its affairs by a party
 which cannot be said to be blatantly
 imperialistic? One of the first
 things the Home Government is
 likely to do is to 'recognise' Russia,
 which as we and others have pointed
 out, is bound to reopen once closed
 markets, and to set the wheels of
 trade and commerce going to a con-
 siderable degree. That will mean
 employment in Great Britain for
 many who are now without it; a
 quickening in the freight market
 and a fresh activity in other
 branches of the mercantile marine.
 Russia is likely to be in a position
 to supply certain things required by
 Eastern markets and the Colony,
 and with the advent of trade with
 Russia, the Colony, thanks to a

Labour Government is bound to
 share, if only a little, in the benefits
 which will arise as a matter of
 course.

Believing that the voice of the
 people should be heard in matters
 which affect their welfare, it
 should follow that any fresh claim
 made in behalf of Constitutional
 Reform should now receive closer
 and sympathetic attention than
 otherwise has been the case. A
 Labour Colonial Secretary will not
 we imagine, allow himself to be
 'intimidated' by any ancient file
 of papers containing the views of
 prejudiced Governors in favour of
 the old order of things, but will
 bring to bear on the question, on
 the assumption that it is at once
 brought to his notice, an open mind,
 likely, without delay, to concede the
 already reasonable demands made.
 Doubtless the Constitutional Reform
 Association has the matter in mind,
 and will, by cable, press its com-
 munity to immediate action. We
 count. Constitutional Reform a
 benefit which a Labour Government
 could, and is likely to, grant. To
 ride rough shod over considered
 public opinion on questions which
 affect the community—as appears to
 be the case in matters of education
 calls for immediate attention and
 redress. A popular fancy, which
 we hope may be found a fallacy,
 is that outside the oligarchy, which
 now reigns supreme in this Colony,
 a set of permanent officials

in London look after matters at
 their end, and Secretaries of State
 are automata who are advised
 what to say, and given documents
 to sign. We shall see. It would
 be fairly safe to prophesy a measure
 of reform placing the Colony in a
 line with other Colonial possessions
 who have had their desires for a
 more direct voice in their own
 affairs, met. Given this reform,
 growing knowledge might reasonably
 expect to receive that attention
 which is its due right, and to have
 its own representative(s) to voice
 their own demands. Other
 benefits there may be—but an
 expansion in what is called the
 Colony's life-blood, and a measure
 of home rule, will be considered
 something reasonable to be going on
 with.

A Piracy Preventive Service.

Seemingly there is only one point
 in connection with the piracy prob-
 lem upon which public opinion is
 unanimous and that is the necessity
 that 'something should be done'
 about it. But for a dozen people
 who will work themselves up into a
 frenzy on the subject you will not
 find one to give you a workable
 suggestion as to what that 'some-
 thing' should be. Some advocate
 an elaborate system of finger-point
 passports for Chinese passengers
 with a view to preventing undesir-
 ables from securing a passage but
 this scheme at best is only likely to
 make it difficult for a pirate gang to
 commit a second crime on a vessel
 outward bound from Hongkong.
 To cope with the tremendous pas-
 senger traffic in and out of Hong-
 kong a huge staff of experts would
 be required and it is extremely
 doubtful whether results would
 justify the expense entailed. A
 suggestion which seems on the face
 of it to be a much sounder is that the
 problem has reached such dimen-
 sions that something in the nature
 of a Piracy Preventive Service
 should be established to deal with it.
 It would not, one hopes, be a
 permanent necessity and for the
 time being police officers, revenue
 officers and perhaps even naval men
 specially suited for the job might be
 seconded from their units in order
 to join it. They would be respon-
 sible in co-operation with the police
 for the searching of vessels and
 passengers in Hongkong and the
 Service would need to be equipped
 with a fleet of fast and effective
 mosquito craft to patrol pirate-
 infested routes. If these routes
 could be patrolled, 'like a city',
 streets, on a system of boats much
 might be done to prevent pirates
 or to bring offenders to justice.
 Small range wireless stations might
 be needed to signal the move-
 ments of ships so that if a ship leav-
 ing A did not arrive at B within a
 reasonable time emergency patrols
 would 'simultaneously be sent out
 from A and B to investigate the
 reason. This also is an elaborate
 scheme which would cost much
 money. A big proportion of the
 expense would, however, have to be
 borne by the steamship owners who
 would in turn, no doubt, pass it on
 by increasing freight and passage
 rates. With their hands more than
 full as they are with the problem.
 It seems a pity the whole thing
 could not be turned over to the Navy
 as part of their job but here it is
 that is not feasible a Piracy Pre-
 ventive Service seems a practicable
 proposition.

Monologue: Con-
 viction between
 husband and wife.
 Good Will: Nothing
 that you get for something.

A story often told by
 FAIRLY William Allan
 Pinkerton, of detective
 fame, in connection with his
 penchant for collecting autograph
 pictures of actors and actresses, is
 worth repeating at this time. He
 was an inveterate first-nighter,
 and in his office in Chicago were
 displayed a large number of these
 photographs. On one occasion a
 renowned English detective paid
 him a visit there. The conversa-
 tion was of a purely professional
 nature, and as far removed from
 stage celebrities as one could
 imagine. Hence, it is perhaps
 natural that the Englishman
 remarked, on rising to leave,
 "These pictures, I presume, Mr.
 Pinkerton, are fairly representa-
 tive of the American criminal
 classes?"

We are all
 NEIGHBOURS? rather given to
 talking about
 "the people next door." They
 never seem to do quite the same
 things as we do, and—groping
 the fact that we ourselves are
 "neighbours"—we define them as
 "people who play the piano only
 when we want them to," or as
 "people who know more about our
 affairs than we ever know our-
 selves." What is the best defini-
 tion of "neighbours" that can be
 suggested?

Married unhap-
 piness results from
 a couple not know-
 ing how to disagree
 with each other.

Those who are will-
 ing to see good where-
 ever it exists, even if
 in so doing they are
 obliged to recast their set opinions
 somewhat, will welcome the news
 that Russia has established a pale
 for gamblers, obnoxious specula-
 tors and other similarly occupied
 citizens. It is reported that a
 wave of moral reform has spread
 over the Communist leaders, who
 are inclined to blame the extrava-
 gance of gamblers and speculators
 for the failure of some of the
 Government commercial enter-
 prises. Provided these regenera-
 tive efforts are being honestly
 conducted, no prejudice should be
 permitted to stand in the way of
 giving honour where honour is
 due.

At the Gala Night
 at the Coliseum, at-
 tended by the King
 and the Queen, the performance
 included a new playlet, entitled
 "The Samurai," by Mr. William
 Archer, the dramatic critic. The
 principal actor was Sessue Haya-
 kawa, the Japanese film star. It
 represented a Japanese, played by
 Mr. Sessue Hayakawa, who takes
 vengeance on a retired Russian
 officer in summary fashion. Years
 before, during the Russo-Japanese
 War, the Russian had tortured to
 death the Oriental's father, who
 had refused to disclose information
 when captured. Despite his af-
 fection for the Russian's daughter,
 the son fights him with swords,
 kills him, and then commits sui-
 cide, thus avenging the murder of
 his father. The actual encounter
 was extremely effective, and was
 played in a vigorous fashion by
 Mr. Hayakawa and Mr. Lewis
 Gillet. We hope this will be
 published in book form. Mr.
 Archer's last shocker "The Green
 Goddess" makes good reading as
 well as good playing.

*On New Year's
 morning President
 Coolidge was shak-
 ing hands for five hours con-
 tinuously. It is estimated that
 nearly ten thousand people lined
 up outside the White House to
 claim the New Year's privilege.
 Americans, we are told, possess
 more of the hustling spirit than
 do most people. This provokes us
 We have been trying to imagine
 the people of Hongkong besting
 Government House on any New
 Year's day desiring a "shake"
 with His Excellency, and we have
 also been trying to imagine H. E.
 standing on the top step of
 Government House, or in the ball
 room, or the Conservatory, or
 wherever these kind of things are
 done—and, honestly we can't get
 going on the matter. Throw in
 refreshments and we can imagine
 it!

He absolutely
 "IMPROMPTU," abhorred rag-
 time, he told
 his host; give him the old masters
 "Chopang" (pronounced twice
 in order to emphasise the "pang")
 "Vagner" (he was at great pains
 not to pronounce phonetically the
 despised "W") and "Baitoven"
 (he seemed very nervous lest he
 should, unwittingly say, "Beet").
 He actually scowled at the silent
 Thumpkins and said that such
 were only fit for churning out that
 abortion of music known as
 "ragtime."

At this his host meekly pro-
 tested, and contended that if the
 guest would but harken he would
 illustrate that the Thumpkins
 could fittingly interpret the
 masters.
 Disbelievingly, the guest with
 an airy wave of the hand signalled
 his willingness to pay heed.
 The host inserted a roll, and at
 the first crash of chords the sceptic
 sat up and listened. Colossal!
 Masterly! Wonder-full! Artistry
 personified! When the last echo
 of the finale had died away he
 begged to be told what it was.
 The host passed over the master-
 piece and the pundit's eyes glazed
 with horror when they met the
 title of that famous masterpiece,
 "When the Midnight Choo-Choo
 Leaves for Alabam."

No one can say de-
 finitely what is ne-
 cessary to ensure a
 long life. So much depends on the
 individual concerned, on surround-
 ings and things like that. And all
 of those who have lived to a ripe
 old age give quite different reasons
 for their having done so. Here
 are some of the things a number of
 centenarians thank for their
 hundred years of life: A diet of
 butter-milk. A swim every day.
 A diet of apples, biscuits and milk.
 One of turnips and raw eggs.
 Rubbing the body with brandy
 once a week, and a contented
 mind!

Today's Poem.

(Villanelle.)

If sleep be sweet when toil is o'er
 And twilight shutters up the day
 It might be good to wake no more.

In dreams upon some silent shore
 All quaint fancies fit and stray;
 If sleep be sweet, when toil is o'er.

Through slumberland's wide open
 door
 Troop happy hours, and moments
 gay,
 It might be good to wake no more.

None there despair, and none de-
 plore,
 And Grief holds there no tyrant
 sway,
 If sleep be sweet, when toil is o'er.

And Joy brings home her treasure
 store,
 And there Love folds his wings, to
 stay;
 It might be good to wake no more!

Princes take this thought as wis-
 dom's lore
 That, be life's burdens what they
 may—
 If sleep be sweet when toil is o'er
 It might be good to wake no more!

—C. MARTIN SHROBOND.

WEATHER CALENDAR.

JANUARY 26.

1802. We are going to walk, and I
 am ready and waiting by the
 kitchen fire for William. We
 set forward intending to go
 into Easedale, but the wind
 being pushish, and blowing
 down Easedale, we walked
 under Silver How for a
 shelter. — Dorothy Words-
 worth.

PAY.

Far better is it to "pay as you
 go" than to "spend as you go."

SHADOWS, BEFORE.

Coming Events Advertised
 in The Mail.

ENTERTAINMENTS.

January 26.—Coronet Theatre:
 "One Exciting Night."
 January 26.—Star Theatre:
 "The City of Silent Men."
 January 26.—World Theatre:
 "Two Kinds of Women."
 January 27.—Star Theatre:
 Dorothy Dalton in "Guilty of
 Love."

SOCIAL.

February 4.—Grand Chinese
 Carnival in the Hongkong Hotel
 Grill Rooms, 8-12 p.m.
 March 1.—St. David's Society
 Dinner.

LAND SALE.

January 28.—At F.W.D. Office,
 one lot of Crown land at Conduit
 Road, at 3 p.m.

PUBLIC AUCTIONS.

January 28.—Lammet Bros., at
 Godown, No. 18, The H.K. Kow-
 loon Wharf & Godown Co., Ltd.,
 Kowloon, Miscellaneous Goods,
 10.30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

January 29.—Lammet Bros., at
 Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf
 and Godown Co., Ltd., Kennedy
 Town, one gas engine, 11 a.m.
 January 30.—Lammet Bros., at
 Sales Rooms, a quantity of sundry
 goods, 11 a.m.

COMPANY MEETINGS.

January 28.—Twenty-third ordi-
 nary general meeting of share-
 holders of the Hongkong Land
 Reclamation Co., Ltd., at the
 Offices of Messrs. Jardine Matheson
 and Co., Ltd., 11 a.m.

January 28.—Thirty-sixth ordi-
 nary general meeting of sharehold-
 ers of the Hongkong Land Invest-
 ment and Agency Co., Ltd., at
 Messrs. Jardine Matheson's Offices,
 11.15 a.m.

February 1.—One hundred and
 fourth ordinary meeting of share-
 holders of the Hongkong-Canton
 and Macao Steamboat Co., Ltd., at
 the Offices of the Company, Noon.

February 2.—Fifth ordinary
 yearly meeting of shareholders of
 the Bank of East Asia, Ltd., at the
 registered office of the Company,
 No. 10, Des Voeux Road Central,
 3 p.m.

OTHER MEETING.

February 4.—General Meeting
 of the Hongkong Jockey Club in
 the Hongkong Club Annex, 5 p.m.

EXHIBITION.

January 28-29.—Exhibition of
 paintings at the City Hall.

OBITUARY.

CAPTAIN SPENCER WILDE.

The late Captain Spencer Wilde
 whose death is announced joined
 the Indo-China S.N. Co. Ltd. in
 1881 at the age of 26, and retired in
 1917. As a mark of respect the
 Company's steamer in port will be
 half-masted to-morrow. No particu-
 lars have been received as to the
 cause of Captain Wilde's death.

ING WA GIRLS' COLLEGE.

TEACHERS' DIFFICULTIES
IN HONGKONG.

Successful students at the L.M.S.
 Ying Wa Girls' College received
 their prizes from Lady Stubbs at
 the annual distribution which took
 place at the Chinese Y.M.C.A., last
 night. Dr. T. W. Pearce presided
 and spoke to the students in
 Chinese.
 Presenting the annual report, the
 Principal, Miss H. Davies said:—
 The year 1933 would long be known
 as the year of great disasters. In
 Hongkong two dates stood out very
 clearly in memory.—August 18, and
 October 30-31. The recent typhoon
 of August 18 fortunately for them,
 occurred in the holidays. Owing to
 the fact that they had some scaffolding
 against the School building, a
 considerable portion of the roof was
 pulled away. The roof was soon
 made water-tight again, but the
 School garden, which was especially
 beautiful just before, would be many
 years before it could fully recover.
 In the rainfall of the night of Octo-
 ber 30, they only escaped ruin by
 such a very slight margin.

TRAINING DIFFICULTIES.

The difficulties of School work in
 Hongkong were many and peculiar,
 went on Miss Davies. They were
 far from all the great publishing
 houses, and had no means of seeing
 new books or new methods. There
 was in this province no Training
 School that was such in any but
 name, so that they had been obliged
 for many years now, to carry on
 their own training classes, and to
 train their own teachers. There
 was also no agency of any kind
 through which valuable teachers
 may be discovered; and no Confer-
 ences in Hongkong of Heads of Staffs
 of Schools, nor any means whereby
 the knowledge and experience of
 some may be put at the service of a
 large number. Each school for
 itself, seemed to have been the
 motto hitherto, and alas for those
 who came last in the race.

Then again, the teaching of the
 Chinese language was a tremendous
 problem. For the most part it was
 still taught in a most uninteresting
 fashion, and memory was developed
 at the expense of all other powers
 of the mind. Girls (and boys) spent
 valuable years of school life in
 memorising Chinese books, and in
 trying to frame their compositions
 on classical models of bygone days.
 Only in this way could they become
 proficient in their own language,
 and without this proficiency what

education was of any real value.
 Until some better and quicker
 methods of teaching Chinese were
 evolved, the work of the School
 room, as far as the teaching of
 Chinese was concerned, must re-
 main an unsolved problem.

With regard to the teaching of
 English, continued the Principal,
 the chief difficulty was to find the right
 teachers. The "Direct Method"
 and "Phonetic System" of teaching
 did ensure most excellent results if
 used by teachers who thoroughly
 understood and understood, and
 these methods, as their High School
 classes under the teaching of a most
 competent teacher fully demon-
 strated. Whether the books used
 were the Tipping Books, or
 "Progress to Literature" series, or
 any other series, the value of the
 teaching depended upon the teacher,
 and the way in which the books
 were used. The best books if
 wrongly used become of no real
 value.

Their staff as a whole, had done most
 faithful work during the year, and
 for all their hearty co-operation and
 loyalty in service they were most
 grateful. One of the staff had been
 with them for 21 years, another for
 10, and others for shorter periods.

On the whole, their girls were
 exceedingly regular in attendance.
 The numbers on the books during
 the whole year had been 352,
 although never more than 315 at
 any one time. They could easily
 have numbered considerably over
 400 had they taken in all who wish-
 ed to come. During six months of
 the year the average monthly
 attendance was over 290. All
 through the year they have been
 exceedingly cramped for room.
 Their Kindergarten Department,
 numbering 63 had been housed in a
 makeshift. Another 70 of the pupils
 in the Lower Classes were housed in
 temporary class-rooms intended for
 covered playgrounds, and still an-
 other 60 in rooms intended for
 dormitory use, and not for class-
 rooms.

The need for the long promised
 new school became more acute each
 year, commented Miss Davies.
 Although their plans were prepared,
 and were even now in the office
 of the P.W.D. they had gone thus
 far as a venture of faith. The
 Education Department had come to
 their aid, and the school had now
 promised a generous building grant
 of \$50,000 by the Hongkong Gov-
 ernment, if they could add another
 \$50,000 in all.

Beyond this actual expenditure on
 class-rooms, they greatly needed a
 small hall for assembling purposes,
 for lantern lectures, and other meet-
 ings. The Hall had been planned to
 cost \$25,000, and would be of very
 great use to the school, and about
 \$25,000 for the site for the whole
 building was prepared three years

"IMMORTAL MEMORY."

(Continued from page 1.)

After mentioning some of the
 greater women's names in Scottish
 history, Mr. Wyllie said that of the
 heroines in real life, there were
 many even to-day. "Out here
 10,000 miles from the Homeland
 we are very apt to forget our
 womenfolk, the mothers who with
 aching hearts are thinking of their
 boys and girls; the sisters who are
 wondering about their brothers
 and sweethearts. Might I repeat
 what our Chieftain said on St.
 Andrew's Night? See to it that ye
 donna' forget them. (Applause).
 "Of the lassies Burns wrote
 much, but he wrote no love-songs
 on imaginary heroines. They were
 all real and these he has immorta-
 lised in the sweetest of his verse.
 It was a bonnie, sweet souse lass
 who first set him to rhyming. Thus
 began his love and poetry. We
 have to-night toasted the Man, let
 us now toast his inspiration.—The
 Lassies (Applause)."

Replying for the lassies, Mr. J.
 Bartholomew said that it was
 rather presumptuous of any man
 to speak on their behalf because
 they could generally be relied
 upon to speak for themselves.
 Poets had raved over their
 magic charm and strong men had
 wept. Yet the lassies still re-
 mained the most interesting puzzle
 man had been set to solve. They
 were the most wonderful thing in
 God's creation, with their sweet-
 ness and their charm, and the
 lassies of to-day were still typical
 of the lassies that lent such won-
 derful inspiration to Robert
 Burns. (Applause.)

During the evening a very
 enjoyable programme was given
 by Piper Wilson ("The 71st
 Highlanders"), Mr. J. H. Lay ("The
 Wee Wee Lassie"), Mr. S. Gray
 ("Star o' Rabbie Burns"), Mr. J. C.
 Taylor ("Aiton Water"); Mr. A. G.
 Simpson ("Sound the Pibroch"),
 Mr. J. Bartholomew ("Tam o'
 Shanter"), Mr. K. McNaughton
 ("John Anderson My Jo"), and
 Mr. A. S. Millsome amusing
 anecdotes about the Poet and
 several of his humorous pieces.

Before the singing of "Auld
 Lang Syne," the Chieftain said
 that he received a very interesting
 radiogram from the "Hakone
 Maru," then nearing Penang. It
 was:—

"May the spirit of Rabbie
 be wi' ye a to-night
 George Duncan."
 (Applause.)

Mr. Sutherland added that he
 would like to thank those whose
 efforts had helped to make the
 evening a success, namely Messrs.
 Wyllie, Keith and Ross. There was
 also one who had been "stage
 manager," not only for that evening
 but for many other functions.—He
 was Mr. D. K. Blair. (Applause).
 "Since I have been in the proud
 position of President, I continued
 Mr. Sutherland, I find it impossi-
 ble to explain how great a godsend
 Mr. Blair has been to me. While he
 always carries out his duties with
 efficiency he also applies that
 little touch of humour which goes
 such a long way. I have no hesita-
 tion in saying that we all owe him
 a great deal—for more than you
 ever know. (Loud Applause.)"

ago, and this invaluable preparation
 work, together with the play-
 ground, cost \$22,000, and was very
 largely the gift of two most generous
 friends,—one in England who had
 never seen them, the other who
 lived in Hongkong on the smallest
 possible pittance, that she might be
 able to give away what she could
 well and rightly had used for her
 own comfort. Both were noble
 givers.

The school's playground, added
 Miss Davies, was now being re-sur-
 faced at a rather heavy cost. They
 considered organised games a most
 important part of a girl's education,
 quite apart from their physical value.
 During the summer months bathing
 was the most pleasant and valu-
 able form of exercise, and they had
 quite large bathing parties every
 week.

The school branch of the
 Y.W.C.A. had done exceedingly
 good work during the past year in
 both the Senior and Junior Depart-
 ments. The pupils had subscribed
 generously and regularly to the
 funds of the Chinese Home Mission-
 ary Society working in Yunnan.
 Also at their Harvest Thanksgiving
 Services, and at eight other meet-
 ings they had taken collections
 among themselves for the support of
 a poor little girl whom they had
 known, as her father was at one
 time working as cook in the school.

During the Summer Vacation a
 large number of elder girls and
 Junior Teachers gave up several
 hours daily for a whole month of
 their holidays at the very hottest
 and most trying time of the year to
 teaching in the schools for poor
 children organised throughout the
 Colony. (Applause.)

The girls who were receiving
 certificates would, it was hoped be
 gathered into classes for the further
 study of English and allied subjects,
 with a view to taking eventually the
 examinations of the Hongkong
 University.

QUEEN'S COLLEGE.

"MAINTAINS ITS REPUTATION."

ANNUAL PRIZE DAY.

Before distributing the prizes at Queen's College this morning, H.E. the Governor (Sir Reginald Stubbs) congratulated the School on the maintenance of its reputation and tradition and said that it had recorded another successful year. He hoped the students would return from the New Year holidays ready to carry on the good work. Among those present were Sir William Brunyate, Hon. Mr. R. H. Kotewall, Messrs. A. G. M. Fletcher, U. Rumbold, E. Ralphs and Teesdale Mackintosh.

Mr. B. Tanner, the Headmaster, in his report said the school year under review was a shorter one than usual, extending from January 1 to November 30 and so consisting of only eleven calendar months. It had been arranged that in future the school year shall begin on December 1 and terminate at the end of November. This re-arrangement was considered advisable so that their class examinations might as far as possible synchronise with the University Matriculation and Local Examinations, and promotions and admissions be made immediately afterwards so as to enable them to settle down without waste of time to the following year's work.

The total number of students in attendance during the year ending November 30, 1923, was 839, being just 4 more than in the previous year. Of this total, all, with the exception of 12 boys, were enrolled at the beginning of the year. The District Schools, as usual, supplied the great majority of boys enrolled, after competitive examination, in the Upper School, where they admitted no fewer than 180 boys from these schools to the various sections of Class 3. The number of school days during 1923 was 200 as compared with 226 in 1922. The average daily attendance throughout the year was 678, being an increase of 33 over that of the previous year.

The discipline, control, and general tone of the school had been maintained at the same high level of excellence at which they always aimed, continued Mr. Tanner, and this notwithstanding the marked reduction in the average age of their boys brought about by the strict enforcement of an age limit for each class.

The health of the school was, on the whole, better than usual. In November they were all vaccinated. To the medical staff of the Alice Memorial Hospital Mr. Tanner offered thanks for their prompt attention to minor casualties and for their kindness in reporting upon and prescribing for boys suffering from slight ailments. In their classrooms and laboratories the year had been marked by a cheerful atmosphere of steady work and effort, and although examination results in several instances leave much to be desired, the Headmaster said he felt that the work itself may justly be described as highly satisfactory. In the recent November examinations, dealing with the Lower School, consisting of classes 8 to 4, they examined 276 boys and of these 228 qualified for promotion. The pass standard from Class 4 here and at the District Schools into our Upper School was last year raised from 50 to 60 per cent.

Science and Commerce. "As all these interested in the work and welfare of Queen's are already aware, our upper school classes fall into two divisions known respectively as the 'Full' course or Science side, and the Commercial side.

"In Class 3, the junior class of the Upper School and consisting of 8 sections, we started the year with 285 boys of whom 105 were enrolled on the Commercial side and 120 elected to take the Science course. By November, this number had dwindled to 209 of whom 198 completed the examination and 148 qualified for promotion to Class 2. Arithmetic and English Composition have now been made, in addition, of course, to Chinese, compulsory subjects in Class 3 and failure in these will in future preclude a boy from promotion."

"Dealing for a moment upon the perennial falling off in numbers that takes place in this class I should like to explain that quite a number of boys regularly seek admission here for the sole purpose of enabling them to describe themselves as Queen's College boys. Occasionally such a boy presents himself and, ap-

plies for a leaving certificate after being here for a mere matter of a week or two—this has led to the introduction of a rule by which no boy is now granted such a certificate until he has been in attendance for at least 6 months and has taken a half-yearly or an annual examination. For some years, also, no leaving certificate has been issued without having the photograph of the applicant attached and other precautionary measures being taken. I first realised that such precautions were necessary some years ago when, after correspondence with the then Postal Commissioner in Canton, it was discovered that certain unprincipled holders of the older certificates were turning them out on hire to applicants for positions in the Chinese postal department and other places and so enabling them to pose as old Queen's boys."

"In Class 2, consisting of four sections—two Science and two Commercial—we had in November a total of 94 boys, all of whom sat for the Junior Local Examination with results as follows:—On the Science side, section 'A,' 22 boys sat and all passed, while in section 'B' with 26 boys, 10 passed and 16 failed. On the Commercial side, section 'A,' 23 sat and 20 passed, while in section 'B' of the 18 who sat only 2 succeeded in passing."

These results, except in Commercial 2B, where we had hoped that at any rate 6 boys might get through, were almost exactly what we had anticipated.

"I say almost" went on Mr. Tanner, "because there were the usual inevitable shocks and surprises when results were published, and in one instance we verged on absolute pathos not to say tragedy. This was the case of a Chinese youth of 15, the top boy of his section (Science 2B), who after obtaining particularly high marks for Mathematics and Chemistry, Geography &c., and actually being awarded a 'distinction' in Physics, failed from nervousness or some hitherto unexplained reason to do himself in English and so was marked down a failure."

"Altogether 26 distinctions were scored by our Junior Local Candidates, one boy, Chang Ju-man, the top boy on the Science side, obtaining no less than 5."

"And here let me say how pleased I am that a somewhat higher standard of marking the Junior Local papers has at last been put into operation by the University."

"Dealing finally with Class 1 to which no boy is promoted until he has obtained a Junior Local Certificate—In June 1923 three Matriculation candidates, who had failed in November 1922, sat again and of these 2 passed; incidentally the third one, with commendable determination, sat a third time in November 1923 and has at long last found favour at the University."

"In November the 13 boys in attendance on the Science side were all presented for Matriculation, and of these 11 passed and 2 failed. On the Commercial side, of the entire class of 21 boys who sat, 4 succeeded in matriculating while 3 were awarded a Senior Local pass and the rest failed. Of the 17 boys who matriculated, 4 obtained distinctions while Ching Hing-chow and Chan Yik-king were awarded honours, the former, our Head Prefect and Top Boy of the School was also the winner of the President of China Scholarship."

"Here I may be permitted to remark in passing that, ever since our boys have competed for this scholarship we have succeeded in capturing it, except in 1921 when I was at home on leave and when owing to some misunderstanding our boys sat for the June examinations (when no scholarships are awarded) and so left a clear field for other competitors at the November examinations."

"It is, after all, only reasonable to expect that we should more or less 'corner' this particular Scholarship since by recruiting our Seniors as we do not only from our own Lower School but from the Government District Schools as well we usually get the pick, in brains at any rate, of those boys who are subjects of the Republic and so entitled to compete."

"For the King Edward VII Scholarship—conferred on those who are British subjects—we very rarely have a boy who is entitled to compete," added the Headmaster. "We have however, on two occasions, managed to carry one off in addition to the President's Scholarship."

(Continued on page 6.)

LOCAL AND GENERAL.

Lighting up time to-day is at 6.07 p.m. and to-morrow (Sunday) at 6.08 p.m.

Alterations in the numbering of houses in Nathan Road are notified in the current issue of the Government Gazette.

In connection with the approaching Chinese New Year the Government Gazette publishes the regulations concerning the firing of crackers.

The total output of the Kailan Mining Administration's mines for the week ending January 12, amounted to 101,805 tons, and the sales during the period to 81,054 tons.

TO-DAY'S ADVERTISEMENTS.

NOTICE.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that as from January 28th, 1924, our office will be removed to "CHINA BUILDING" (Old Post Office Site) 1st floor, Queen's Road, Central, Hongkong. Suzuki & Co., Ltd., Hongkong. P. O. Box No. 304. Tel Nos. 464, 468, 3397 & 2453. Hongkong, 26th January, 1924.

ROYAL AIR FORCE.

It is proposed to hold the Annual Re-Union Dinner on or about SATURDAY 23rd, February 1924, will those desirous of attending, kindly communicate with

L. R. BLACKING
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HONGKONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE LANGUAGE SCHOOL.

PROVIDED that sufficient STUDENTS are forthcoming, a NEW CLASS for BEGINNERS will be commenced directly after China New Year.

INTENDING STUDENTS are invited to apply to the undersigned.
D. K. BLAIR
Secretary.
Hongkong, 26th January, 1924.

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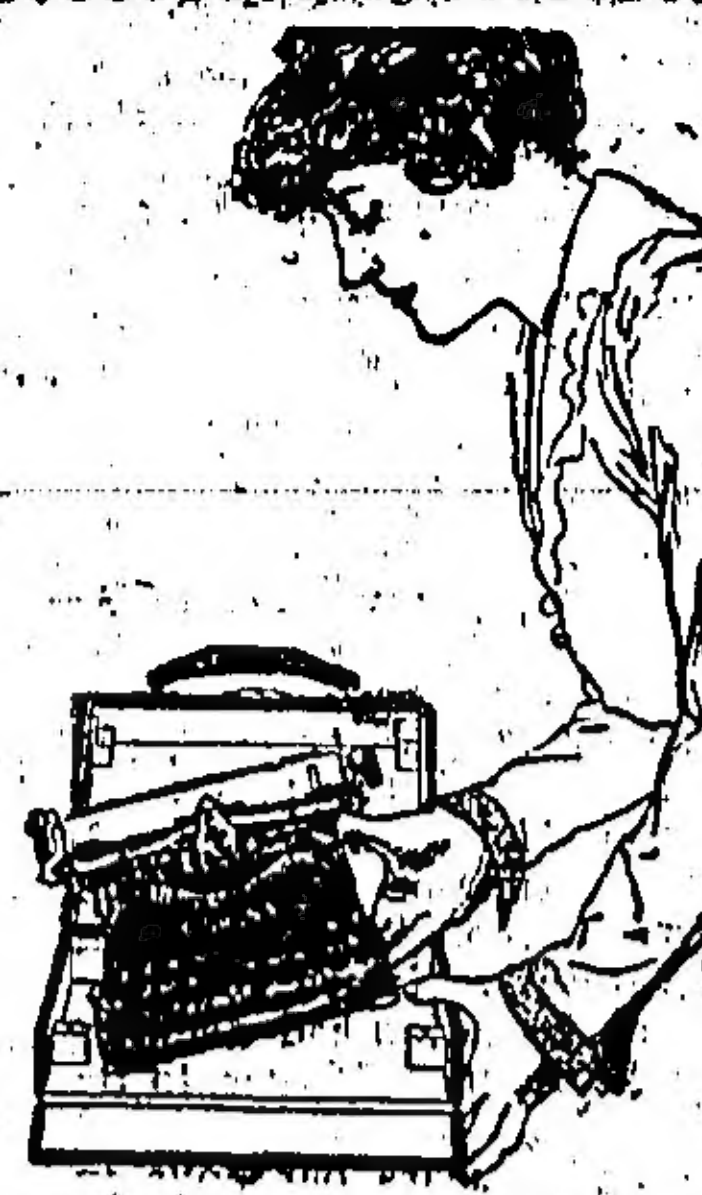
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CONSIGNEES.

NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES.

"ELLERMAN" LINE

FROM UNITED KINGDOM & CONTINENT.

THE Steamship

"CITY OF GLASGOW"

having arrived, Consignees of Cargo by her are informed that all goods are being landed at their risk into the hazardous and/or extra-hazardous Godowns of Holt's Wharf, whence delivery may be obtained.

No claims will be admitted after the Goods have left the Godowns, and all Goods remaining undelivered after 1st February, 1924, will be subject to rent.

All claims against the Steamer must be presented to the Undersigned on or before 8th February, 1924, or they will not be recognised.

All broken, chafed and damaged Goods are to be left in the Godowns, where they will be examined on any Monday or Friday between the hours of 10.45 a.m. and Noon, within the free storage period of one week. No Fire Insurance has been effected. Bills of Lading will be countersigned by

THE BANK LINE, LIMITED,
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THE Steamship

"HANNAWA"

having arrived from above ports, Consignees are requested to present their Bills of Lading in exchange for Delivery Orders, and take immediate delivery from alongside steamer.

All Cargo not taken delivery from steamer by 26th January, 1924, will be landed into the hazardous and/or non-hazardous godowns of the Hongkong & Kowloon Wharf & Godown Co., Ltd., at consignees' risk, whence delivery may be obtained.

All broken, chafed and damaged cargo will be examined by Messrs. Anderson & Ashe (Marine Surveyors) at the godowns on 31st January, 1924, at 10 a.m.

No claims will be admitted after the goods have left the steamer or godowns, and all goods remaining undelivered after 31st January, 1924, will be subject to rent.

All claims against the steamer must be presented to the Undersigned on or before 7th February, 1924, or they will not be recognised.

No Fire Insurance whatever will be effected.
ARNHOLD & CO., LTD.,
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Hongkong, 26th January 1924.

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"RIGGED" AUCTIONS.
SYNDICATED BIDDING SCANDAL.
HONGKONG PROTESTS.
SPECIAL "CHINA MAIL" INQUIRY.

Syndicated bidding at auctions of land lots is a procedure which is arousing a storm of protest in Hongkong. It is a well known fact that a group of bidders at an auction agree not to bid against each other in order to get land at a cheaper price than what would be the case if they acted solely on their own and bid on a competitive basis. In some instances land has been bought by a syndicate and re-auctioned, not a small margin of profit being gained thereby. And it is against such practices that the bona fide bidder is bitterly complaining. If these syndicates of bidders attend every important auction and force a "knock-out," how can the average business man expect a reasonable and fair chance of getting a look in?

Strange to say, the victimised bidder has little chance of obtaining legal redress, for as far as we understand, there is no law against this unfair practice. It is a legal poser which has been the subject of several interesting cases in which varying judgments have been given.

It was with a view to obtaining an elucidation of the problem that our Commissioner called on the Hon. Mr. J. H. Kemp K.C., (Attorney-General).

Mr. Kemp informed us that in his opinion it was an unfair practice and against public policy but he said that the greatest difficulty lay in the securing of adequate proof of the syndicate or group of bidders' agreement. Fortunately, added Mr. Kemp, the law in Hongkong followed very closely upon that of the English law and hence facilitated the use of references and rulings on the question.

In reply to our Commissioner's question as to whether or not the practice was illegal, the Attorney-General quoted from Archbold's "Criminal Pleading, Evidence and Practice" which on page 1420-1 under the caption "Mock Auctions" and "Knock-Outs" is the following:—

In *Levi v. Levi* 6 C and P 239 Gurney, B., said that a proceeding known as a "Knock-Out" whereby several brokers agree before an auction that only one of them shall bid for each article sold, and that all articles thus bought by any of them shall be sold again among themselves at a fair price, and the difference between the auction price and the fair price divided among them, was indictable. But in *Doolbass v. Ram* Loll, 5 Moore, Ind. App. 109; 18 Eng. Rep. 836, this ruling was declared by the judicial Committee (per Parke, B.) to be an unenforceable *nisi prius* dictum. In *Leopard v. Litton*, K.B.D. May 31, 1897 (Hart on Auctioneers pp. 135-140) Wright, J., in adopting the view of Parke, B., as above stated, said that he had withdrawn from circulation his treatise on Criminal Conspiracies (1873) because after publication he had found that his acceptance of *Levi v. Levi* (supra) was not warranted by *Doolbass v. Ram* Loll which he had not found at the time of publication. In *Galton v. Emms* 13 L. J. (Ch.) 388, B. and C. agreed not to oppose each other in bidding.

A test case in Hongkong would prove interesting indeed, for the subject is very absorbing and one which would certainly provide a problem for our learned judges.

It remains to be seen whether or not any public-spirited business man will take the risk.

for the estate of A., in an auction, on the terms that if B. was declared the purchaser, he would give C. an option to buy it at a certain price. This agreement was held legal and enforceable. In *Re Carew's Estate*, 26 Beav. 187 and *Hoffer v. Martin*, 15 W. R. 390, similar agreements were held not to be inequitable. At a sale by public auction of surplus stores belonging to the Government, the plaintiff and defendant agreed, in order to avoid competition, that the defendant alone should bid for certain goods, and that the goods, if purchased, should be divided equally between them. Accordingly, the plaintiff abstained from bidding and the goods were knocked down to the defendant, who subsequently repudiated the agreement. In an auction by the plaintiff to recover half of the goods purchased or their value over and above the price paid at the auction, Shearman J. held that, at any rate where the goods sold were the property of the public, it was against public policy that persons should combine at an auction to procure the goods to be sold at a price below the fair value with the necessary result that the public were defrauded, and he ruled that the agreement was unenforceable. On appeal however, it was held by Bankes and Atkin, L.J.J. (Scrutton L.J. dissenting) that the agreement was not illegal, and that judgment must be entered for the plaintiff.

This ruling of Justice Shearman's emphasises the feelings of Hongkong honest buyers. His statement that "the public were defrauded" is one which should strike home to the syndicates who go in for "knock-outs." Justice Shearman's verdict is further supported by the following news paragraph from a Home paper:—

"The knock-out" in auction sales should be made illegal, as it is defrauding the owner of the goods, said Judge Ruegg K.C., at Birmingham County Court during a case in which it was stated that two men stopped bidding so that a friend, with whom they were to share the profits, could buy the goods more cheaply.

Though the case was not pressed legally there being hardly any occasion for it—an incident relevant to the subject under discussion aroused much indignation in Shanghai recently. It was during the auction of a pony, the winner of a selling stakes race. The owner was anxious to retain the pony and when the bidding started she found much competition. She was a popular owner and when the figure rose, friends pressed upon other anxious bidders to stop bidding in order to enable the lady to buy in her pony at a reasonable figure. This was done and the lady retained her pony, but though the incident seemed closed it aroused much comment from the newspapers.

A test case in Hongkong would prove interesting indeed, for the subject is very absorbing and one which would certainly provide a problem for our learned judges.

It remains to be seen whether or not any public-spirited business man will take the risk.

CORRESPONDENCE.**PIRATES.**

(To the Editor of the China Mail.)

Sir,—I should like to concur with the remarks made in "One who trades to Kongmoon's" letter published in your issue of yesterday regarding the care or lack of same, amongst ships officers in charge of ships passing through areas liable to piracy.

I travelled on a river steamer which regularly proceeds from Hongkong to a certain place which for obvious reasons I shall not mention and spoke to the chief officer on the subject of the likelihood of that particular ship being pirated.

His answer—hardly printable—was very emphatically in the negative. When I mildly suggested that he seemed somewhat optimistically boastful, he replied "On this ship we always carry our loaded revolvers with us and see that the armed guards are in their proper places with everything secure, the grills etc., locked and maintain a proper watch, without getting careless because nothing so far has happened, and it's only due to the carelessness of the officers concerned that anything does happen."

When reading over the report of the latest outrage, this officer's remarks came back to my mind especially when the chief officer of the latest ship where the pirates made a most successful haul (from their point of view) had not even the key on him of the locked drawer in which he kept his revolver.

To one who happens to be an ex-Army officer, this lack of discipline seems very obvious and should not be tolerated.

I am Sir,
Yours, etc.,
READER.

Hongkong, January 24.

OUR THEATRE.

(To the Editor of the "China Mail.")

Sir,—It has frequently occurred to me the little use to which your Theatre Royal is put by your local adherents of the Drama.

The productions staged by the Hongkong Amateur Dramatic Club, about twice yearly at the most I believe, are mounted and produced in a manner that would do credit to Sir John Martin Harvey's and Miss Julia Neilson's and Mr. Fred Terry's personal touring companies.

I would mention that the stage of the Theatre Royal, Hongkong, is larger than that of many London West End Theatres.

Recently in England there has been a considerable revival in the repertory theatre. Whilst amateurs who have their Professional and business vocations can hardly be expected to vie with these, I really believe something approaching that standard is practical of achievement.

The recent production of "R.U.R." was played for four performances only and prior spectacular productions for a similar "run." It is obvious therefore that the major portion of the admittance money is spent on new scenery, specially made for every production and which in some instances is probably never used again.

With a few small sets of "Stock" scenery—that is interior and exterior sets—any modern play could be produced without the necessity of an expensive outlay for every fresh play produced. After all, the play is the thing, and I maintain with a body of enthusiastic players well organized six plays could be produced yearly.

I recall some years ago the late Sir Herbert Beerhohn Tree played "Hamlet" with the aid of turnins. Yours, etc.,
"MERRY A PLAYER"

Hongkong, January 25.

PASSENGERS.**ARRIVALS.**

For F.O. & S. "Karyala" on Jan. 25, 1924, Mr. J. J. M. Mr. W. E. C. Mr. and Mrs. W. O. Mr. and Mrs. J. D. H. Mr. E. S. Edward. Mr. M. Brown. Mr. Lindsay. Mr. Grady. Mr. E. H. Williams. Mr. F. H. H. Mr. W. H. H. Mr. N. Lawson. Mr. and Mrs. M. H. H. Mr. R. H. H. Mr. and Mrs. M. H. H. Mr. U. H. H. Mr. and Mrs. M. H. H. Mr. P. H. H. Mr. and Mrs. M. H. H.

CONSIGNEES' NOTICES.

Cargo arrived per s.s. "Wray Castle" not cleared by 10 o'clock, will be subject to entry. Agents—H. H. H. & Co. Ltd.
Cargo arrived per s.s. "Boudicca" remaining undischarged after January 23 will be subject to entry. Agents—H. H. H. & Co. Ltd.

ROXOR

For F.O. & S. "Karyala" on Jan. 25, 1924, Mr. J. J. M. Mr. W. E. C. Mr. and Mrs. W. O. Mr. and Mrs. J. D. H. Mr. E. S. Edward. Mr. M. Brown. Mr. Lindsay. Mr. Grady. Mr. E. H. Williams. Mr. F. H. H. Mr. W. H. H. Mr. N. Lawson. Mr. and Mrs. M. H. H. Mr. R. H. H. Mr. and Mrs. M. H. H. Mr. U. H. H. Mr. and Mrs. M. H. H. Mr. P. H. H. Mr. and Mrs. M. H. H.

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GRILL ROOM**on MONDAY, 4th February.**

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DANCING 8 p.m. to 12 Midnight**LATE CAR TO THE PEAK 12.30 a.m.**

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COMMERCIAL NOTES.

Messrs. James F. Hutton & Co., Ltd., Manchester, report on December 19:—

During the past week cotton prices have been subjected to more rapid and violent fluctuations than for a considerable time. Extreme nervousness and lack of confidence all round have been the outstanding features, and the course of prices after the final American Bureau report has shown that the markets are still suffering from the effects of recent conditions. It is evident in fact that some time must elapse before a clear appreciation of the outlook can be safely taken. Up to now supply and demand at the moment have been the sole factors and as a very large part of the demand has been purely speculative this has been an unsteady guide. At the same time a short American crop, which is now beyond doubt for this season, encourages speculative operations such as have been experienced lately. For this reason it seems likely that trading interests will continue to suffer through repetitions of these operations during the remainder of the season, although of course the effects may not be so violent as recently. The final Bureau report estimates a total

American crop of 10,081,000 bales, as against the special estimate of November 2 of 10,248,000 bales. At first prices fell, but a sharp advance of over 1d. per lb. followed immediately, all of which has since been lost. An increase of trade support has again been noticeable at extreme declines and this policy appears to be the soundest under present conditions. In the Manchester market there has been a fairly large general enquiry for prices, mostly by mail. Very few offers by telegrams are coming in and there is a general absence of business of weight. Buyers continue to await more settled conditions in the raw material markets. Staple goods are seldom under offer what buying there is consists chiefly of fancy styles and stocks. The clearance of stocks has indeed been exceptionally large recently and includes many lots held on this side since the commencement of the slump. Yarns are very quiet and American are practically unchanged from last week; Egyptian are 1d. to 2d. per lb. dearer. From China there has been some enquiry for fancies and whites. Inquiry for prints, light whites, and fancies is very large. From Singapore and Java there is a small miscellaneous enquiry. South America is also quiet and Egypt and the Levant have purchased only a few whites and stocks.



WM. S. HART
starring in
PARAMOUNT ARTCRAFT
PICTURES

William S. Hart, with his two guns and a horse, returns to the screen in a Paramount drama of the West of 50 years ago.

CINEMA CHATTER.

THE STAR

TO-DAY at 2.30

EDDIE POLO

in

"CAP'N KIDD"

5.30 and 9.15

Thomas Meighan

in

the great Crook drama

"The City of
Silent Men."

SUNDAY

at 8 and 9.15 p.m.

DOROTHY DALTON

in

"GUILTY OF
LOVE"

A Paramount Artcraft

Picture

by the great British director

Harley Knowles.



DOUGLAS
FAIRBANKS
"The Mollycoddle"

Douglas Fairbanks performing the most thrilling exploit of his film career.

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World. — "Two Kinds of Women."

Star. — "The City of Silent Men."

Grand. —

CORSAIR GALLEYS.

WONDERFUL PICTURE SPECTACLE.

Representing the largest naval investment and the most picturesque undertaking of its kind ever recorded in motion picture history, a fleet of five large vessels of the Sixteenth Century type will be completed shortly by Frank Lloyd, independent producer-director, for his production of Rafael Sabatini's "The Sea Hawk," for release as a First National picture.

The five ships, ranging from 90 feet to 192 feet in length, one with a poop deck 52 feet above the water line, are now being constructed for Mr. Lloyd at the shipyards at San Pedro, Calif., under the supervision of Fred Gabouri, recognized as film-dom's leading authority on ship construction and periodical technique. Mr. Gabouri has been loaned to Mr. Lloyd by courtesy of Buster Keaton, and, assisted by more than 300 draftsmen, mechanics, riggers, carpenters, electricians, sailors and common labourers, he is building a fleet, which, when completed, will recall the Pacific expedition of Balboa, Magellan and Cabrallo, more than 300 years ago.

Producer Lloyd will produce a majority of the scenes for "The Sea Hawk" on the high seas and during the rainy season. To meet every emergency all of the old vessels are being made sea-worthy and equipped with motor power, and it is expected that those who participate in the action before the Lloyd camera will have some exciting experiences at sea.

One of the ships will be a duplicate of an English frigate of the early 1600s. From the top of the mainmast to the anchor, rudder, the bulwarks and the galleys, the minute details of Sir Oliver Trevelyan's time will be duplicated. Another ship will be a Moorish galleass, another a Moorish frigate. There will also be a pirate craft and a Spanish galleon. The Moorish frigate will be manned by more than 200 corsairs, four to six to an oar, and the other vessels will have crews in proportionate numbers.

While Mr. Gabouri's men are working night and day getting the big fleet ready to take the water, Mr. Lloyd, with Harry E. Weil, his general manager, is preparing the filming schedule and the cast. Filming is expected to begin in December and last until late in April. Despite a list of candidates numbering over a hundred, the man who will play "the sea hawk" character still remains an enigma.

MYSTERY PLOTS.

FIVE IN THE NEW GRIFFITH PICTURE.

"ONE EXCITING NIGHT."

There are six roads, it is said, to the building up of effective mystery, and "One Exciting Night," D. W. Griffith's great mystery photoplay now showing at the Coronet Theatre under a United Artists release, travels five of them.

Griffith gives selected treasure, personal disappointment, puzzling homicides, hidden identity, and even symbolizes the return of the avenging spirit. The only motif he does not handle is that of mystery murder through jealousy.

The progress of the art of thrills has led to skilful and ever more skilful combinations of the prime elements.

The "haunted house" idea is one of the oldest in fictive annals. Around it the modern comedy thriller is built in such fashion as to hold several plot-spirals. The scene of Griffith's play is a mansion near Louisville, Ky., which is thought by the negroes to be "haunted."

Griffith soon provides the key to this part of the play by action showing the place to be a bootleggers' den. The only folk likely to have \$500,000 lying around in some hole in the wall—at least nowadays—are bootleggers! Up there in the attic a masked figure kills one of the partners, in a quarrel over the money. Thus the buried treasure, the mysterious homicide and the concealed identity of the robber are all "set" for what follows.

Next, the main action of the host and the guests in house develops still another plot-sequence, with the fascinating mystery of Carol Dempster's antecedents, and the reactions of the house party to various menaces that culminate in a second

murder. Now the hidden-identity quest widens to five suspects: the dupe, the stranger, the black butler, the detective and even the hero, Henry Hall, Frank Sheridan, Frank Wunderlee, C. H. Crocker-King and Wallace Morgan by turns are thought to have a guilty knowledge of the black-deeds in the house of mystery.

The suspicions are temporarily lulled only to be raised, and raised again. Yet the atmosphere never becomes too tense or horrible, thanks to the modern device of "comic relief." The innocent negroes, Jones and the maid, are always on the job, interpreting the members as "ghostly presences," and thus always punctuating the thrills with a quickly following laugh.

Frank Wunderlee, on the other hand, in the role of Black Sam, inevitably suggests the avenger of past misdeeds. The motif is not so prominently worked out as some of the others, but it is there, nevertheless. So also is the "personal disappearance" theme.

All the while the bootleggers treasure stays in the house—the object of pursuit in the very midst of the exciting events. The device of having the pursuit continuous gives life and pep, while it does not interfere with the romance of Miss Dempster and Mr. Hull—indeed, that young man and his sweetheart are at one time precipitated right into the heart of the treasure mystery, by becoming most unwilling recipients and concealers of the loot.

The final dash out the front door of the real robber and killer, carrying the fateful Glydstone bag, followed by the lovers chasing him through a terrific rainstorm and hurricane, leads up to a real Griffith climax. The dramatic strength of it is triply welded. The utter mystification as to his identity, the helpless condition of Hull, the wrongly accused and handcuffed hero, and

the girl's necessity of "getting" him in order to exculpate the beloved but unfortunate Mr. Hull, are three elements that cause every spectator to hang breathlessly on every foot and inches of that marvellous, protruded imitation of Nature's mid-summer violence.

The rogue's unmasking solves the first plot, and the unfolding of the mystery connected with the girl, the second. This double denouement makes everybody satisfied and happy for a few laughs at the after life of "poor Romeo" and a few contented sighs over the marital fade-out.

The modern comedy mystery thriller is a recent development. Its salient characteristic, as in "One Exciting Night," is to tie together several distinct mystery motives, combining them on the one hand with a strong love story and on the other with the comic treatment of the fear displayed by the minor characters. After-war psychology demanded thrills, romance and laughs, all in one, and that is what the playwrights evolved.

Griffith's art consists in doing this for the screen, without the enormous aid that the voice gives to "creep" plays. There were other almost insuperable difficulties, too, but he mastered them all.

DOUG'S NEXT.

HEREDITY AND ENVIRONMENT UTILIZED.

Two of the greatest factors in life, heredity and environment, have been used by Douglas Fairbanks in supplying the theme for his third United Artists Corporation production, "The Mollycoddle."

The time has arrived, according to the famous screen star, when the new-fashioned "movie" is taking the place, even of the old-fashioned debating society. The "big" ques-

tions that once furnished the meat for argument of verbal character are now being thrashed out in a more entertaining manner through the medium of the screen.

There was one stock argument that had always been pelted in the make-up of "Ezra Jones," having to do with heredity and environment. He argued of having a mole behind his left ear that had come down in a straight line from his great-great-grandfather and he challenged environment to put a mole behind his ear.

In "The Mollycoddle" Douglas Fairbanks, as Richard Marshall, the Fifth, is an offspring of many generations of fearless fighters. His ancestors fought all the way through the Revolution; all across the plains and all down the coast of the western country. They were not dauntless or even civilized in their undertakings and it mattered little just how they gained a point, just so long as it was gained quickly.

In the title role, Fairbanks is transplanted in England at an early age. He arrives at his youth through the so-called hot house cultivation with the result that his early quirkiness found him gentle in manner; quiet of voice; fastidious in dress and addicted to such affectations as monocle, perfume and cigarette holders.

There is no question but that he went very well with his environment; but everything about him grated on the red-blooded Americans with whom he came in contact, for their knowledge of Englishmen had been gained from fiction. He was considered just a plain "Mollycoddle."

But something happens in his life and he gets back to America. A girl is the cause and for her he tries to crack the shell of his English exterior. He is not much of a success at the start for he had been too thoroughly saddled with environment.

Conditions were different then. Many obstacles crossed his path and he was called upon in numerous emergencies. Then his ancestry took hold. He forged to the front and scouted as his plainsman grandfather might have scouted; stood up under fire as his Revolutionary grandfather must have; rescued beauty in distress as his cavalier father surely did and fought as all four of his grandfathers would have if rolled into one.

Wallace Beery as the "villain" has considerable work to do in developing the ancestry of "The Mollycoddle" over his environment and Ruth Renick, as the pretty girl who starts the turning point of it all, is responsible for many of the thrilling situations.

RADIO IN FILMS.

SINGER'S PASSION TAKES HER FROM SPAIN TO THE SOUTH.

Picture fans who accept the theory of love at first sight will have something more to think about when they see "Thorns and Orange Blossoms," the Preferred Picture coming to the Coronet.

When the hero of the piece goes to Spain to transact business for his firm he sits down to the piano in his apartment one evening to play "La Paloma." A golden voice in the distance takes up the song and he falls in love with Rosita Mendez, the prima donna of Madrid, before he has as much as laid eyes on her. But let it be known that the creature in the flesh is by no means a disappointment, for Rosita is enacted by the beautiful Estelle Taylor who personifies all the fascination of the popular conception of a dashing songstress.

When her lover returns to America she follows him on the pretence of fulfilling an engagement to

sing in the United States. Her voice broadcasting "La Paloma" by radio reaches his ears just as he is preparing for his wedding to an old time sweetheart and needless to say it stirs him to sudden panic. What the outcome is forms the basis of the story which thrilled our fathers and mothers a generation ago when the famous Bertha M. Clay book was published. Of course, the radio is a 1922 innovation in the tale but the old story of rivalry for a man's love is still there told in the same charming manner which popularized the novel and stage play.

NORMA TALMADGE.

DROPS PLAN TO PLAY JULIET.

Norma Talmadge has exercised a woman's prerogative. She has changed her mind, reversing her former decision to film "Romeo and Juliet." She has also decided against making a screen version of "Marie Antoinette" for the French government. Because Lillian Gish and Richard Barthelmess are to play the leads in a film-version of "Romeo and Juliet" and because Mary Pickford and other stars may also do the Shakespearean drama for the movies, Norma has reconsidered and come to the conclusion that it would be unwise for her to use it as a vehicle at this time. Charles Rumbolt, representative of the French government, tried to induce Miss Talmadge to make "Marie Antoinette," but Producer Joseph Schenck has wired him that, while she felt highly honored, he considered it inadvisable to make the picture in view of the opposition that appears to exist in Parisian film circles. French producers and directors oppose the use of an American star for the drama, holding that a French actress should be chosen for the role of the ill-fated queen. Meantime Norma is progressing with the filming "Secrets" and her "Song of Love," recently completed, is being groomed for early release by First National.

JACKIE COOGAN.

SHIMMIES WITH MONKEY PARTNER.

Jackie Coogan does the "shimmy" in his latest picture "My Boy," an Associated First National attraction. And the manner in which he does it will bring shrieks of laughter from anyone who sees it.

Jackie Blair, the part this little actor plays in the picture, is on his way to a drug store to get a prescription filled for his friend and benefactor, the captain, who is confined to his bed with the rheumatism. Now Jackie didn't have a cent with which to pay for the medicine, but he was hoping for fate to supply him with the funds.

On his way he stopped to watch an organ-grinder's monkey go through his tricks for the benefit of the crowd of onlookers. When coins were tossed at the monkey Jackie got an idea, jumped within the circle and started to dance to the music of the organ.

Somewhere or other Jackie had learned to "shimmy" and he employed his knowledge to good stead. His efforts along that line were so successful that his cap was filled with money in a short time. But when the crowd had dispersed the Italian grabbed all the dough and tried to escape with it. The manner in which Jackie gets his share of the proceeds or the entertainment furnishes delightful humour.

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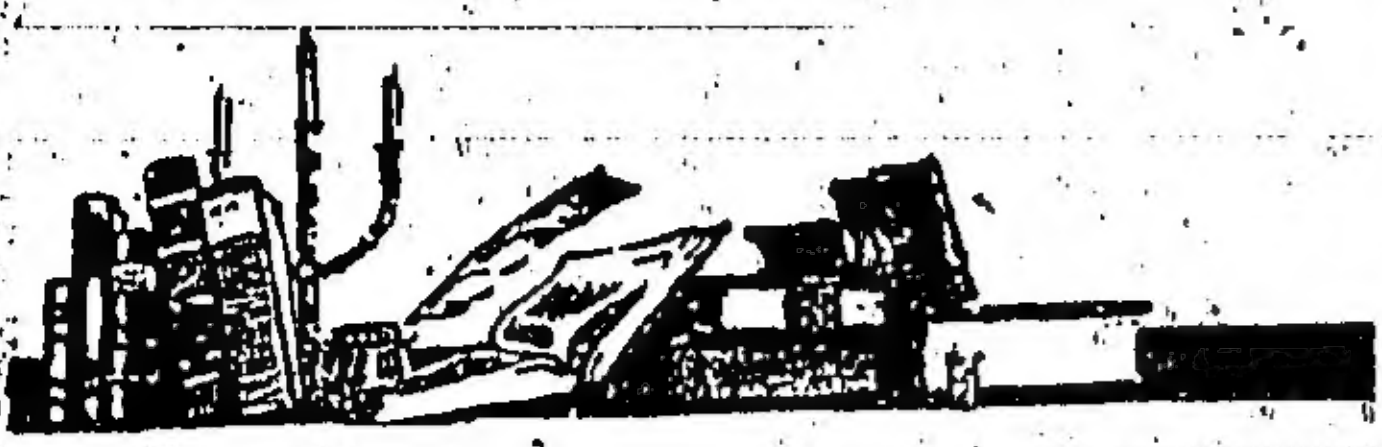
"ONE EXCITING NIGHT"

in that he has succeeded in producing a Superb Melodrama that is worthy of comparison with his greatest film masterpieces and to it has wedded a Musical Score that will stand for a long time as the finest the screen has known

In order that those who see it after you may extract the same enjoyment from it that you do, please do not give away the finale!

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BOOKS

MR. CONRAD'S NEW NOVEL

The Rover. By Joseph Conrad. (Fisher Unwin. 7s. 6d. net.)

Mr. Conrad's story, as a remark on the wrapper assures us, is in no sense historical; and the letter of that statement is quite true. But it is no less true that the author has laid his course for the past, dipping under the horizon line beyond which, for us, lies history. Of the two broad highways which convey the romance of atmosphere the one generally travelled by Mr. Conrad removes us to a distance of peace. The other, which he has chosen here, measures its attainment not by mileage but by a journey into time. What has emerged from it is not the full-dress and detail of a historical novel. It is that subtitled past, through the aroma and the intuitive touches, which comes alive in "Rob Roy," or "The Trumpet-Major," or even "Treasure Island." For as Mr. Conrad's sea-rover, Peyrol, settles himself with his big chest and his money-weighted waistcoat at the lonely farmhouse "in a manner of speaking for ever," we can scarcely help thinking of Bill Bones arriving as a permanent lodger at the Admiral Banbow. But that is for contrast more than likeness; the two men and the stories are as different as Mr. Conrad is from Stevenson. Mr. Conrad, who can be sterner if he likes than Stevenson, has more complex depths even in those moments; and genial as his creation is, pleasure is not a more decisive element of it than wisdom.

The new story is a straightforward Conrad. The rover's past is more obsequious than mysterious, and Mr. Conrad himself tells us all we need know. Perhaps telling is hardly the word for that reconstructed life of the man which floats up so naturally that we are, as it were, inside him. It shows how concrete the art is; we are "inside"

Peyrol because the whole manner and physique of him, and the very ground he treads on, are felt with a tangible vividness. In fact, after being transported there by the book for a few hours on a November day, we begin to share his nostalgia for the sun-baked, salted earth which had been in his bones from childhood. We know, as if we lived there, this lonely swell of ground on the peninsula between Toulon and Hyeres, where the *meane* is fixed, the farm, the rough hillside, the expanse and indentations of the sea. And when, for a minute now and then, the action shifts to the English sloop, outpost of Nelson's squadron, which is hovering off the coast to watch, one still has the sense of viewing it, and imagining the blockading fleet beyond the skyline, from those same few rising acres. The detached, queer group of people at the farm becomes familiar in the same way. There is the miserable Scovola, its nominal owner, once a *bienvenu de sun* in the Toulon massacres, and now a pitiable but still dangerous neurotic. There is Arlette, daughter of the Royalist couple who had owned the farm and were butchered under her eyes at Toulon, where the child was forced to witness and even share in days of massacre which are still more present to her than actual things. Scovola, who brought her home, has never dared to make her his wife. Her aunt, rigid and silent, bears old tongs in her handsome face; and even Lieutenant Real, who comes out there for quiet, and then for service reasons—and other reasons—is a guarded, shadowed character. Peyrol spreads a kind of watchful sanity over all this, while the threats of action and passion meet in the lieutenant.

State designs and private emotions interweaving make an honestly thrilling tale of action; with the glint of its time. The sea chase, ending in the destruction of Peyrol and his treasured boat, is a worthy climax; and the glimpses of Nelson

which follows is convincing as far as it goes. It was good that the great novelist of sailing ships should have pictured at last, if only in a flash, the greatest sailor. But in the novel, in the main, a mere network of incidents? It is saved from being just that by the creative vision in each trait of the land and sea, and still more by the unfolding trails of human character. Arlette is beautifully drawn. Her change from a shadow-haunted creature to an intensely living person, as she responds first to Peyrol's calm and then comes fully awake in her passion for Real, is subtly conveyed and brings two fine scenes of revelation. The very least of the characters, down to Peyrol's vague and quiescent henchman and a cripple who appears only twice, are individualized. And so are the English, with a stroke or two. But the old rover is the pillar of the book and bears it up, with a humorously sagacious ease, on his broad shoulders.

Mr. Conrad, certainly, has written greater things than this; but among his recent books it stands out for the speed of movement, and not less for the impress of its truth to human nature. Peyrol, you may conceivably think, is idealized, too benign for his past. But that sense of the passage and effects of time which Mr. Conrad knows how to achieve is well applied to the case of the rover. One feels, too, the rational composure with which he has gone through an amazing life. He remains sudden and strong of hand; and even in his last self-devotion there is room for other feelings, such as indifference to mere living and a grim joke upon the English captain. It would be truer to say that Mr. Conrad simplifies, remembering the whole those depths under the firm outline. He shows the ideal not as obscuring the real, but as inhabiting it. So Peyrol has a classic strength which puts him, like the old seaman of the *Narcissus*, with the best in Mr. Conrad's gallery of sailors. It goes deeper than romance and means an unshaken hold upon reality.

THE PEACOCK THRONE.

Major Powell gives us an account of a journey he made, not without some danger and excitement, through Syria, Arabia and Persia, lands full of historical and religious importance to the West and a great part of the East. Possibly for many people "the East" is not India or China and Japan, but the lands of Moses, Christ, Mohammed, of Cyrus, Omar, Semiramis, Harun

Al-Rashid, Coeur de Lion and Hafiz, to mention a few names at random. There is a pall of romance and glamour cast over such towns as Damascus, Baghdad, Jerusalem, Tyre and Ninova, and they exist in our minds as towns of splendour and riches unlimited, until we actually visit them. We have gained our ideas from the Bible and ancient histories, but above all from The Thousand and One Nights. The human mind always creates a halo over the past, but when we see these places to-day we are somewhat disillusioned. For the modern traveller, in place of the glories of past days, the luxury and colour of life, the jewels, the painted ceilings of cedar, the hangings of white, green and blue fastened to silver rings and pillars of marble, the purple of Tyre, and of Caliphs dispensing riches with royal hand, are chiefly found squalor, filth, heat almost unbearable, sandy wastes, religious wranglings and tribal feuds. Here and there, however, are stretches of very fertile country producing oil, corn and wine in abundance, while the domes of some mosque, golden or tile covered, the ruins of a Greco-Roman temple, or the gardens of Tehran remind us of the past.

With the advent of British and French influence in Syria and Arabia, a new era of prosperity was promised, but Major Powell tries to show in what a precarious state is its realization. He writes of our political aims and mistakes from the standpoint of an American and here probably many of his readers will disagree with him. Nevertheless he writes as a man representing another point of view and never bitterly. It is always wise to know what other people think of us and the author is decidedly cynical over "the triumvirate of British puppet-rulers" Hussein, Abdullah and Feisal, and he sees in the "story of the Mesopotamian muddle" the cause of much of the recent misunderstanding with France. "It is a curious fact that in Britain's policy in Mesopotamia and Arabia is to be found the key to the international political situation in Europe. It is a far cry from the Tigris to the Ruhr, but it cannot be denied that the happenings on the one have had their repercussion in the other. Had England not placed an obscure Arab prince, an avowed enemy of France, on the throne of Iraq, thereby menacing French rule in Syria, France would not have concluded a treaty with the Turkish Nationalists and would not have withdrawn her troops from the Dardanelles after the annihilation of the Greek armies in Asia Minor by

Mustapha Kemal. And, if France had not thus abandoned her former ally, leaving her to oppose the advance of the victorious Turks alone, it is a reasonable supposition that England's attitude toward the French occupation of the Ruhr would have been different." Similarly the author has some rather straight things to say about our political activities in Persia and our support of the Zionist movement. Major Powell writes vividly and enthusiastically and he is not lacking in a sense of humour. His account of the Persian workmen is worth quoting. "The performance never varied. The man at the top of the ladder would sing out, in what he fondly believed, to be a melodious tone, 'Brother, in the name of Allah, toss me up a brick,' whereupon the one below would mark his compliance with the request by chanting, 'In the name of God, behold a brick, O my brother.' I have often heard bricklayers in America invoke the name of the Deity, but they used it in quite another sense."

—H. DU T. P.
[By Camel and Car to the Peacock Throne. By E. Alexander Powell. John Long. 15/-]

THE AUTHOR IS RESPONSIBLE.

Mr. A. S. M. Hutchinson has written an extremely interesting preface to a popular edition of "The Freedom" in which he explains the idea of the novel and incidentally refers to the relations that exist between him and the characters that he creates. It will be remembered that in "If Winter Comes" Mark Sabre would have avoided all subsequent trouble if he had obtained furnished lodgings for the unfortunate young woman whom he befriended instead of taking her to his own house. Many critics have asked why on earth Sabre did not adopt this obvious common-sense procedure? Mr. Hutchinson answers that "Mark Sabre never thought of it," and he adds: "All my characters in all my books never do think or act as, critically judged, they ought to have thought or acted. They do as they do, right or wrong, because they are what they are and can be no other."

This is all very well, but a critic is perfectly justified in suggesting that the character would not have acted as Mr. Hutchinson makes him act or, as has occurred to many people in the case of Mark Sabre, if he did act in Mr. Hutchinson's way, that he would be a fool. Mr. Hutchinson, as a matter of fact,

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takes very high ground when he says: "When I am writing I inhabit these people—or they inhabit me, I do not know how these things happen, nor profess to know anything about the art of writing whatsoever—and they tell me what it is that is troubling them and I just put it down. Do you, when a man is come to you for sympathy, stop him and tell him what he ought to have done; or when a woman, similarly beset, comes to you with a confession and with what her confession means, stop her and desire her to tell you what it does not mean? I think you do not; and I, when I am writing, do not. You listen. I transcribe." This is to claim reality and actuality for the Hutchinson characters equal to the reality and actuality of the world. They may be, but, to use an Americanism, it is "some" claim.

THOMAS HARDY'S NEW BOOK.

The Famous Tragedy of the Queen of Cornwall. A Play for Mummies. By Thomas Hardy. (Macmillan; 6s.)
"It may be easy to be a genius at twenty-four, but it is hard at eighty-four," writes Dr. Edmund Gosse. "Mr. Hardy, our inestimable veteran, however, contrives to

overcome the difficulty. His new play is a wonderful performance. Let me not fall into the trap of exaggeration. The Queen of Cornwall is not, and does not affect to be, a work in the grand style; here is not *The Dynasts* over again. It is a trifle, if you will, a dramatic interlude in one act, arranged, as the author modestly affirms, as a play for mummies. But it has a character which is exclusively Mr. Hardy's, a freshness and liveliness entirely its own. We take, for instance, such a lyric as the following, sung by Tristram to the harp: "Let's meet again to-night, my Fair, let's meet unseen of all; The day-god labours to his lair, And then the evenfall!" "O living lute, O lily-rose, O form of Penthesa, When torches waste and wardens doze, Steal to the stars we will!" "While nodding knights carouse at meat, And shepherds shamle home, We'll cleave in close embraces—sweet, As honey in the comb!" The passage of years is absolutely powerless over such talent as this, adds Dr. Gosse.

Harold Lloyd



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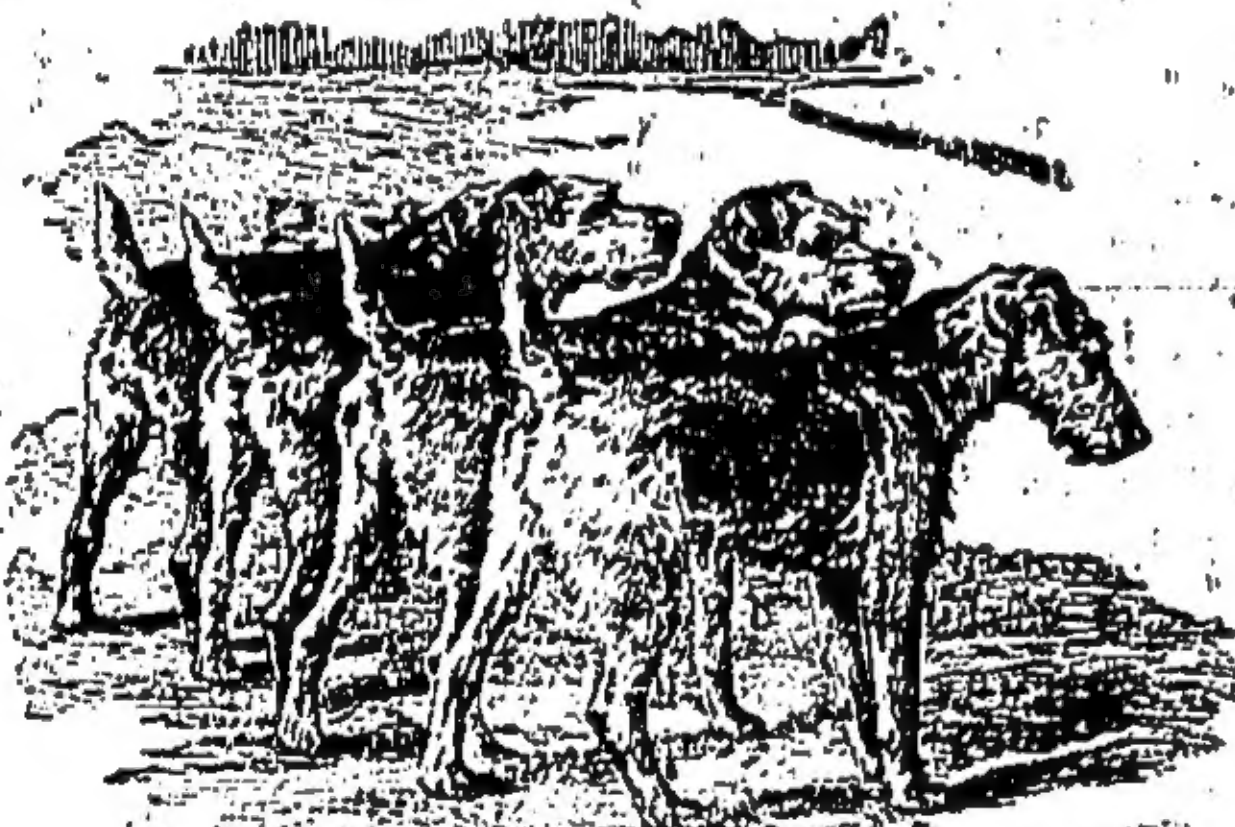
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Photo by Mee Cheung.

Queen's College Champion Soccer Team with their trainers and Headmaster.

Block by Nam Sang.



Photo by Mee Cheung.

During their visit to Hongkong Mr. E. S. Kadoorie and his son were entertained by the Jewish Club last Saturdays night. Sir Robert Ho Tung was one of the guests.

Block by Nam Sang.



Photo by Central News.

The King (in front of wheel) on his yacht "Britannia." Major Hunkle, the skipper, is seen at the wheel of the Royal Yacht, which is well over.

Block by Nam Sang.

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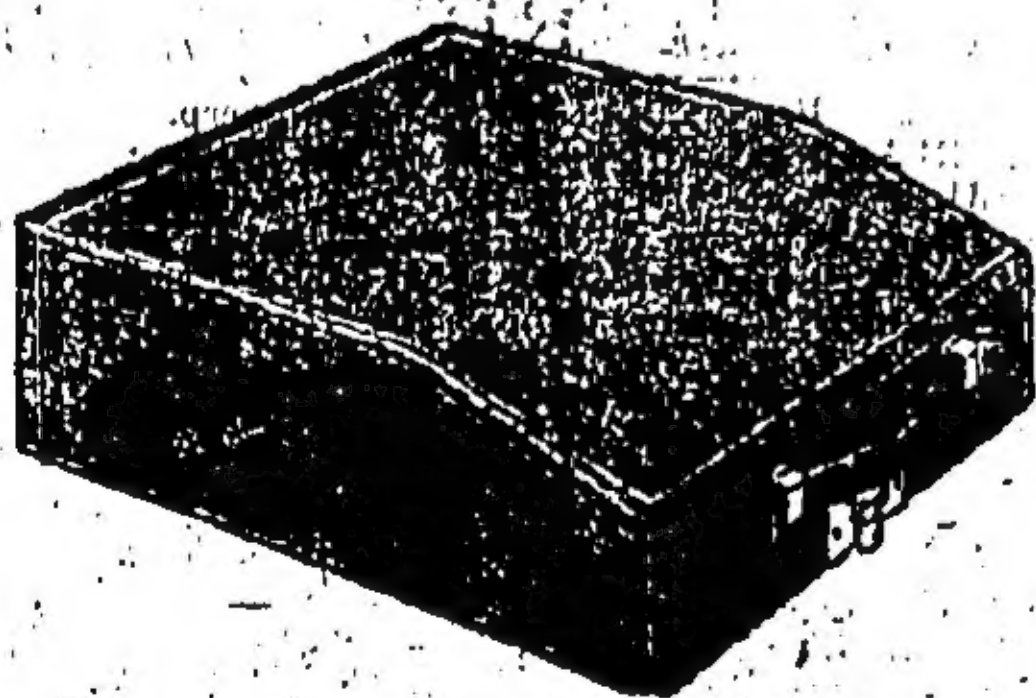
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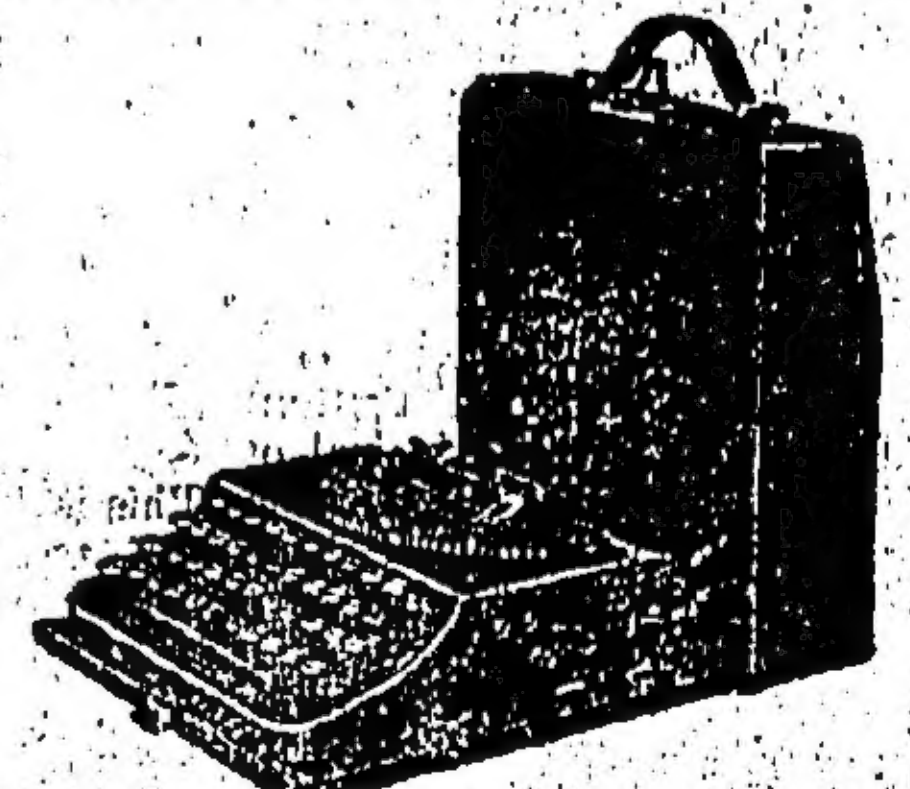
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INCORPORATED BY ROYAL CHARTER

Reserve Fund	£8,800,000
Reserve Liability of Proprietors	£8,000,000

FOREIGN EXCHANGE and General Banking business transacted.

CURRENT ACCOUNTS opened and **FIXED DEPOSITS** received for 1 year or shorter periods at rates which will be stated on application.

Bangkok	Hongkong	Suigon
Batambang	Mongtee	Shanghai
Canton	Noumea	Singapore
Djibouti	Papeete	Tientsin
Haiphong	Peking	Tourane
Hankow	Puom-Penh	Yunnanfu
Hanoi	Poudicherry	

BANKERS.

C. E. GOY,
Manager.
Hongkong, October 1, 1923.

BANK OF CANTON

For 12 Months 5% per annum.
On demand ... 2% per annum.
LOOK POONG SHAN,
Chief Manager.
Hongkong, May 24, 1921.

Alexanders Buildings, Chater Road.

General Banking and Exchange business transacted.

Loans granted on approved securities.

Current Accounts opened and First Deposits received at rates which may be ascertained on application.

The Bank also conducts a Savings Department.

K. C. LAU,
Chief Manager.

Hongkong, August 17, 1920.

The London Joint City & Midland Bank, Ltd.,
BRANCHES:
 Bangkok Cebu Manoa Singapore
 Batavia Hongkong Madras Shanghai
 Bombay Java Yokohama India
 Calcutta Rangoon Penang Singapore
 Colombo Siam Port Louis (Mauritius)
 Delhi Kota Bharu

HONGKONG BRANCH.
 Every description of Banking and Exchange is
 transacted.
 EXTENDED allowed on Current Accounts at 3
 per cent per annum on Daily Balances and on Fixed
 deposits at rates that may be ascertained on application
 to the Manager.

M. C. WILSON,
 Acting Manager.

7, Queen's Road Central,
 HONGKONG, 2nd October, 1926.

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ESTABLISHED 1880.

CAPITAL (fully paid up) Yen 100,000,000
RESERVE FUND Yen 72,000,000

HEAD OFFICE—YOKOHAMA.

BRANCHES AND AGENTS AT:

Batavia	Newchwang
Belevia	Yokohama

Marile
Nagasaki
Nagoya
Tamaoka
Tsu
Wadsworth

Interest Allowed on Current Accounts.
Deposits received for fixed periods at 4%
to be obtained on application.

J. NISHIYAMA
Manager
September 17, 1922

